

ASSISTANT TO SUPERVISING ARCHITECT OF THE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

MARCH 27, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HICKS, from the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. Res. 112.]

The Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds, to whom was referred the House joint resolution No. 112, submit the following report:

Your committee would respectfully submit that it is believed if a skilled architect is selected to assist the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department in preparing plans, specifications, etc., for the new mint at Philadelphia, Pa., the building can be designed more in accord with advanced and attractive architecture than if the drawings were made by the present permanent force now employed in the Treasury Department, and work on the building could be commenced at an early date.

There are now in the office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury 257 buildings upon which construction operations have been in progress since December 1, 1889; and of this number there are at this time 18 buildings for which no plans have been prepared.

This resolution carries no additional appropriation, but simply takes from the appropriation already made a specified sum, \$25,000, which, if needed, would in any event have come from the same appropriation if the work were done in the office of the Supervising Architect. The cost or expense of sketches, drawings, estimates, specifications, etc., is always charged against the appropriations for each public building. The building for the new mint at Philadelphia was authorized March 3, 1891. The ground has been purchased, and the title is in the United States. Congress has already made appropriation for the construction of the building, and upward of \$700,000 stands to the credit of the new mint.

The Secretary of the Treasury states that if a special force be assigned for the purpose the sketches, estimates, drawings, and specifications could be sufficiently advanced to place the basement and area walls of the building upon the market within six months, the superstructure within ten months, the heating and interior finish within sixteen months, and all of the necessary details within eighteen months from commencement. He estimates the special force of draftsmen and skilled service at \$15,000.

Your committee favorably report the joint resolution, and respectfully urge its immediate adoption.